

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 4, 9, 35, 36, 39 and 41 have been amended. Claims 2, 24 and 40 have been previously canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-23, 25-39 and 41-54 are pending.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 39 and 41 were objected to for informalities. The informalities identified in the Office Action have been corrected herein. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 39 and 41 are in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 4, 9 and 35-38 were rejected as being indefinite. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections of the claims as being indefinite be withdrawn. Claims 4, 9, 35 and 36 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments overcome the current rejections.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-23, 25-34, 39 and 41-54 were allowed. Claims 4 and 36 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims place the claims in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1, 3-23, 25-39 and 41-54 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 8/11/08

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